

that is exemplary in Web design." **Ben's Guide** was awarded the American Library Association's "Notable Children's Web Site" designation in April 2000, an honor reserved for sites "considered the best Web sites for ages birth-14, outstanding in both content and reception."

Public Access to Microsoft Antitrust Case Documents

At the request of the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia, GPO provided public access during the year to key documents issued in the Microsoft antitrust case by Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson. The documents included the "Findings of Fact," issued November 5, 1999; the "Conclusions of Law and Order," issued April 3, 2000; and the "Memorandum and Order and Final Judgment," issued June 7, 2000.

For each document, GPO was asked to make advance preparations for rapid dissemination. GPO established a specific URL for the Microsoft case documents to be released on **GPO Access**, at <http://usvms.gpo.gov>. At the Court's request, the documents were made available in WordPerfect and Portable Document Format (PDF) formats, and GPO added availability in HTML format. To handle the anticipated demand, GPO arranged to have the documents loaded on 10 servers configured behind a Force 5 BigIP load balancer, served by five T1 lines.

The Court also asked that GPO make available printed copies of the documents through its main bookstore on North Capitol Street in Washington, DC, on the date of release. GPO produced copies of the covers in advance, established sales prices for the products, and made preparations to dedicate high-speed duplicating systems for rapid document production. In addition, GPO set up a system for taking advance orders for the printed publications.

Following the announcements of the decisions contained in these documents, printed copies and electronic disk versions were transferred to GPO by the Court. Print production began immediately, and sufficient numbers of copies were produced by the public availability deadlines. At the same time, the electronic versions were readied for the release time. Following release, online traffic was heavy. In the

first hour following release of the "Findings of Fact," **GPO Access** experienced 152,000 successful connections, with new connections averaging between 75 and 100 every 4 seconds. In the first hour following release of the "Conclusions of Law," **GPO Access** experienced 90,000 successful connections. A total of 53,000 successful connections were experienced in the first hour following release of the "Memorandum and Order and Final Judgment" in June. Print copies were made available for sale at GPO bookstores around the Nation and through Federal depository libraries nationwide.

Many of the network evening news broadcasts about the documents were filmed in front of GPO on the release days.

Use of Online U.S. Budget Increased

As the President's Fiscal Year 2001 Budget was released to the public through GPO bookstores, thousands of citizens reviewed the individual budget documents online through **GPO Access**.

Compared to the year before, there was a dramatic increase in the public's use of the online budget. A year earlier, first-day sales of the printed budget documents—including the *Budget*, the *Budget Appendix*, *Historical Tables*, *Analytical Perspectives*, *Citizens Guide*, and *Budget System and Concepts*—were 4,631 sets, while **GPO Access** hits for the same information online were 45,652.

On February 7, 2000, the budget documents and the online version were again released the same day. This time, 4,473 sets of budget documents were sold, a decrease of about 3 percent. However, **GPO Access** hits for budget documents jumped to 115,229, an increase of more than 150 percent. GPO worked closely with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in the preparation of the six budget documents, which together comprised a

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total of 2,808 pages. GPO received an "OK to Print" the documents from OMB at about 9 a.m. Sunday morning, January 30, and all publications were completed and ready for distribution well before the target distribution time of 8 a.m. Monday, February 7. A total of 69,528 copies of the six documents were produced for both OMB and GPO. In addition, the budget information was prepared for dissemination online at 8 a.m. the same day.

Technical Support Provided for Supreme Court Web Site

The new Supreme Court Web site, which went live on Monday, April 17, 2000, at <http://www.supremecourtus.gov>, was made possible as the result of key technical support provided by GPO. The site makes Court information available free of charge via the Internet to the Bar, the public, and the news media. Late in the year, the site provided public access to the decisions of the Supreme Court in the Florida election cases.

Working closely with the Court, GPO provided Web development services for the new site. Although it has its own Web address, the Supreme Court site is part of the **GPO Access** system and is hosted on GPO servers. GPO provides round-the-clock Web maintenance service for the Supreme Court site.

The Supreme Court Web site initially provided online access to the Court's 1999 term slip opinions, 1999 Term orders, argument calendar, schedules, rules, bar admission forms and instructions, visitors' guides, case-handling guides, special notices, press releases, and general information. A link was also provided to the Court's "bench" opinions on GPO's Federal Bulletin Board (at <http://fedbbs.access.gpo.gov>). The "bench" opinion is the first version of an opinion, published immediately after the case's announcement by the Court from the bench.

Since 1991, GPO has been a subscriber to the Court's Project Hermes, an electronic subscription system that transmits the Court's orders and "bench" opinions to

